



The Messenger

BE JOYFUL IN HOPE, PATIENT IN AFFLICTION,
FAITHFUL IN PRAYER. ROMANS 12:12

(JANUARY 2022)

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* ARTICLES NEED TO
BE SUBMITTED TO
PETE BY THE LAST
SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
- FOR THE NEXT
MONTH'S
PUBLICATION.

Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson



Why do we bother to make New Year's resolutions? Why do we feel this need each January 1 to set new goals? Maybe it is because resolutions help us to identify our priorities. They answer the Question: How do I want to invest my time, energy, money, and talents in this New Year? The New Year reminds us that time is passing. It is up to each of us to maximize the potential of every moment.

Paul gives us specific directions for living each day. Paul in Philippians says, "Forgetting what lies behind, I strain forward to what is ahead." We should be looking forward to what is ahead this New Year, we are able to make a fresh start and forget the things that may have been holding us back in the past.

Our God is not a God of the past, but of the present and the future. Our God is One who says again and again, "Behold, I am doing a new thing." "If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold everything is new!"

I am sure of this: whatever is hurting us, whatever is holding us back, whatever is keeping us from the fullest possible experience of life, God wants to gather it up, and take it away so it will never bother us again. God will do that if we will let God control our life.



The year 2022 is a blank piece of paper and we can color on it any way we wish. Yes, some have more crayons in their box. Some have many more colors to pick from, but that should not hold us back from using what we have to draw a beautiful picture through our lives that will glorify God and serve God's people. Are you ready, to do that in 2022?

I found this list of New Year's resolutions on the internet. They are a good starting point for all of us in 2022.

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Calendar of Events

Unvaccinated are asked to wear masks & stay a safe distance from others.

Sunday Adult Education at 9:00 AM
Sunday Worship and Communion at 10:00
Communion is on the First Sunday/month
Men's Prayer Breakfast Tuesdays @ 8 am
Chair Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays
Wednesday Choir Practice at 4:00 PM
Jan. 9 - Elders Ordained & Session Meeting
Jan. 20 - Women's Devotional after Yoga
Jan. 30 - Congregational Meeting at end of
Worship Service

JANUARY 2022						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					New Year's Eve	¹ New Year
2	3	4 Yoga 1 PM	5	6 Yoga 10:30	7	8
9 Session Meeting	10	11 Yoga 1 PM	12	13 Yoga 10:30	14	15
16	17	18 Yoga 1 PM	19	20 Yoga 10:30	21	22
23	24	25 Yoga 1 PM	26	27 Yoga 10:30	28	29
30 Cong. Meeting	31					

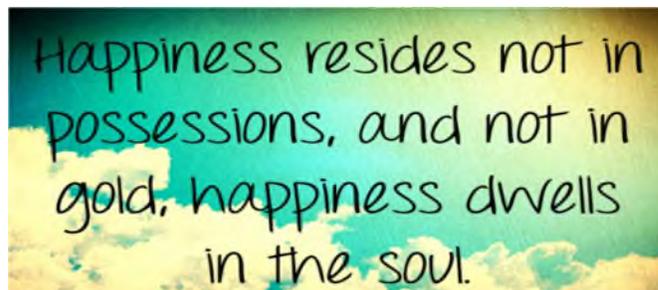
Carl continued:

I like a list of resolutions prepared by the Rev. Walter Schoedel. He calls them '7-UPS for the New Year.' These 7-UPS fall under the heading of attitudes and actions.

- 1) The first is **WAKE UP**--Begin the day with the Lord. It is His day. Rejoice in it.
- 2) The second is **DRESS-UP**--Put on a smile. It improves your looks. It says something about your attitude.
- 3) The third is **SHUT-UP**--Watch your tongue. Don't gossip. Say nice things. Learn to listen.
- 4) The fourth is **STAND-UP**--Take a stand for what you believe. Resist evil. Do good.
- 5) Five, **LOOK-UP**--Open your eyes to the Lord. After all, He is your only Savior.
- 6) Six, **REACH-UP**--Spend time in prayer with your adorations, confessions, thanksgivings and supplications to Lord.
- 7) And finally, **LIFT-UP**--Be available to help those in need--serving, supporting, and sharing.

If you're going to make New Year's resolutions this year, let me suggest Rev. Schoedel's list.

Christians have good reason to be the happiest people in the world. Their happiness is not based upon the condition of the world but upon the condition of the heart.



They are happy because of God and not because of man. So, take the 8760 hours you have before you in 2022 and enjoy life knowing that God truly loves you.

Happy New Year. Carl and Evelyn

Common Lectionary Readings (Carl will change topics at times due to quests - especially in the Summer)

	2nd Sunday after Christmas - Jan. 2	Baptism of the Lord - Jan. 9	2nd Sunday after Epiphany - Jan. 16	3rd Sunday after Epiphany - Jan. 23	4th Sunday after Epiphany - Jan. 30
1st Reading	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Isaiah 43:1-7	Isaiah 62:1-5	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm	Psalm 147:12-20	Psalm 29	Psalm 36:5-10	Psalm 19	Psalm 71:1-6
2nd Reading	Ephesians 1:3-14	Acts 8:14-17	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Gospel	John 1:(1-9), 10-18	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	John 2:1-11	Luke 4:14-21	Luke 4:21-30

Jan. Birthdays



- Anita Johnson 5
- Chine Ray 8
- Missie Lanham 12
- John Pettijohn 18
- Jim Arner 23
- Shay VanWinkle 29

About our Members (and Prayer Requests)

Julie Goggans received some good news. Her tumors, other than the pancreas, have shrunk. The one on the pancreas has remained the same- good news-it hasn't grown- not so good news is that it hasn't shrunk. The oncologist wants to stay with the current dosing for the time being. This is a "chemo week" so pray for endurance to get through the week and more good days ahead.

June Lubowinski's shrinking brain tumor has started growing again and because radiation did not kill it her doctors agree it should be removed. Surgery will be as soon as it can be planned and scheduled. Your continuing prayers and care are greatly appreciated.

Joe Carroll is stronger and walking around (mostly with a walker) plus now going to physical therapy. Sleeping has improved which helps many other aspects of his life. The cognitive skills are coming back. He is eating but not as much as Susan would like at times. Susan and Joe are very grateful to the church for your prayers!

Bob Todd is continuing a three-week immunotherapy injection program which is controlling his cancer. From a dermatology standpoint he has one surgery down (12/13) and two more scheduled to have some skin cancers removed (on 1/3, and 1/17). Please pray that the remainder of these surgeries will be as successful as the first.

Seekers Adult Education by Shirley Pinkston

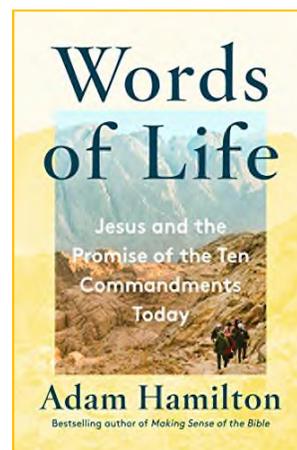
The class will begin the new year with the study of Adam Hamilton's book, *Words of Life*. We will look at each of the 10 Commandments God gave the ancient Israelites, the principals behind them, the way Jesus spoke to them and lived them, and, ultimately, how they speak to our lives today. There are 10 lessons. Studying one chapter a week, these lessons will be completed on March 6, the first Sunday of Lent.

I'm looking forward to meeting again with you on the 2nd of January as we discuss a topic so relevant to us as Christians in an age of materialism and social media-

driven envy. I hope to see you there and share in the study of God's Word as well as enjoy Christian fellowship.

Evelyn Thompson is giving out the books, contact her if you need a book.

Coffee and cookies will be served, and all are welcome.



“Go the Distance”

My Grandma Johnston, who raised me, had a saying, or as she called them, a “saw” for every occasion. Child that I was, I had no idea what most of them meant, and usually, no clue to what she was referring.

I would frequently hear her say, “The world is going to hell in a hand basket,” as she perused the local paper. I had no clue what a hand basket was; and the idea of the whole world going to hell wasn't something that I wanted to think about. But nowadays, when I read the newspaper or listen to the news on television, I know exactly what she was saying.

The crime rate is up. The number of people willing to go out and work seems to be declining. You see “Now Hiring” signs in a lot of store windows around the country. The general consensus seems to be that people would rather stay home and collect their stimulus money than go to work.

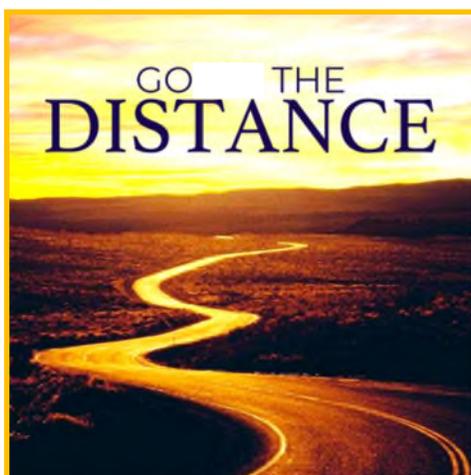
And to top it all off, I read an article in the Killeen paper recently, about the “nones”. I was clueless as to who these “nones” might be. But it seems that the “nones” can be identified as those whose church affiliation is “none in particular”. They make up about 20% of the population. Most of them can be classified as “unchurched” rather than “non-religious”. It seems that the United States of America, founded and sustained on the godly beliefs of our forefathers, is being identified less and less as a God-fearing nation.

But, despite all the negativity that seems to surround us and depress us daily, there are still peo-

ple of faith in this country and all over the world who believe in the Lord God Almighty. And they are still doing His work and sharing His word every day. I read about several of them recently. They are feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, and providing Christmas gifts for children of men and women who are incarcerated. They are buying shoes for children whose families can't afford them. I read about a young man whose bicycle seat was stolen. The bicycle was his only transportation to work. The people in his town raised enough money to buy him the first vehicle he had ever owned.

So, my friends, I say this to you. Do not be disheartened or discouraged no matter what the news mongers put out there. But remember the confession of faith that we repeat together each week. And know in your hearts, that our God is faithful and all powerful. And He always keeps his promises.

One of my favorite movies is “Field of Dreams”. At one point in the movie, Kevin Costner hears a voice that we can only assume is the voice of the Almighty, telling him to “Go the distance.”



Jesus Christ went the distance for you and for me. So, we can do no less.

Lamentations 3:22-23 “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

May God richly bless you and yours in the coming new year.

From a Merry Heart
Linda Lloyd

Session Meeting Notes - 12/12/2021 from Pat Rehm

Elder Randy Kemp and Pastor Carl Thompson were given permission by consensus of the Session to replace the computer in the church library, which is old and broken, with one that has a flash drive.

The new elders who have been certified as Ruling Elders will be ordained and installed during Worship on Sunday, January 9. Each will be responsible for a specific administrative area of our congregation: Mike Hart, *Education*; Shay VanWinkle, *Fellowship*; and Jeanette West, *Worship*. Mike also agreed to oversee *Benevolence* duties, as needed.

Treasurer Pat Hart presented the revised 2022 Budget. Evelyn Thompson moved for approval, and Randy Kemp seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

After the Church roll and membership lists have been revised according to Presbyterian protocol, Pete Stebbins is willing to produce a new Church Directory for 2022.

Evelyn Thompson moved that \$400 be authorized for the new directory, and Pat Hart seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

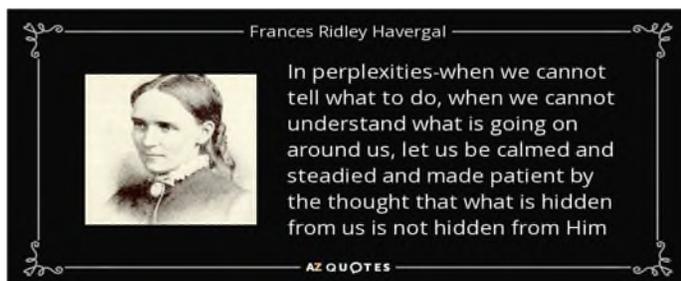
Pastor Carl stated that we plan to change the codes on our locks in the coming year.

Current Benevolence Elder Pat Rehm requested approval of congregational member Betty Gengler to handle the twice-monthly purchases of bread for Heart & Hands Ministries' food distributions. Evelyn Thompson moved that this request be approved, and Randy Kemp seconded the motion, which was passed.

Elders Debby Aldridge and Evelyn Thompson moved that the new elders' training had been validated through their educational session with the Pastor on December 9 and that they have been officially approved for ordination and installation on Sunday, January 9.

Additional important dates: The congregational meeting will occur on 1/30, and the new Session will meet on 2/13.

♪ Musical Notes ♪



Frances Ridley Havergal, (December 14, 1836 – June 3, 1879), was the author and songwriter for countless poems and hymns. Several hymns you may remember singing in years past, sitting quietly as a child in worship services. Some hymns we still sing today can be attributed to this woman who used her talents of writing poems and composing music to the glory of God. Following are the titles of some of her cherished hymns:

- “I Gave My Life for Thee, My precious blood I shed.”
- “Like a River Glorious, is God’s Perfect Peace.”
- “Lord Speak to Me that I May Speak”
- “True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted, Faithful, and Loyal”
- “Who is on the Lord’s Side? Who Will Serve the King?”

The most well-known of her hymns is “Take My Life and Let it Be, Consecrated Lord to Thee.” In fact, this one was sung as the sending/final hymn this past Sunday, December 26, 2021.

Ms. Havergal was also known to write poems and hymns in conjunction with the new year. One of these is “Another Year is Dawning, Dear Father Let it Be.” Be-

cause of being associated with the end of one year and the beginning of another, this is not one of her most well-known hymns. If you do remember having sung this hymn, there are several tunes to which you could have sung it. A couple of the more familiar melodies which coordinate singing with the rhythm of this poem are “The Church’s One Foundation,” or “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus,” as well as a few others.

As we think of making New Year’s resolutions, which may or may not make it through a whole week, much less an entire year, consider the words in this hymn below as a resolution to be kept for life! Following are the verses to the hymn, “**Another Year is Dawning:**”

- 1 Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee;
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.
- 2 Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face;
Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast;
Another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.
- 3 Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training for holier work above;
Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
On earth, or else in Heaven, another year for Thee.

Happy New Year as we continue sharing in Christ’s service!

Jeanette West



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24, 2021



* Pictures provided by Amy Carlson



The Session has decided to print a new Church Directory for 2022. Pete Stebbins will be in the Narthex for the next few weeks verifying your information and taking new pictures as appropriate. Be sure to stop by and see Pete (or call 254-338-9548).